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NEA/EGY:RJONES

IO/UNP:SZELLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: EG, PREL, RW
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO GOE ON RWANDA

REF:

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1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARAGRAPH 3.

2. REFTEL REPORTS THAT GOR MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE VISITED CAIRO RECENTLY TO REQUEST GOE ARMS FOR
THE RWANDAN ARMY. ACCORDING TO

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[REDACTED] THE GOR REFUSED THIS REQUEST. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY MEET WITH GOR TO CONVEY USG SUPPORT OF GOR DECISION AND TO BRIEF GOR ON OUR APPROACH TOWARD RWANDA.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON THE TALKING POINTS BELOW:

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOR WAS APPROACHED RECENTLY BY A HIGH-LEVEL GOR OFFICIAL TO REQUEST ARMS FOR THE RWANDAN ARMY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT REFUSED ASSISTANCE. WE SUPPORT YOUR DECISION. CONTINUED ARMED CONFLICT WILL ONLY PERPETUATE THE TRAGEDY IN RWANDA AND ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT MUST END THE KILLING AND

NEGOTIATE A DURABLE CEASE-FIRE.

-- THE CRISIS IN RWANDA HAS REACHED EPIC DIMENSIONS SINCE THE VIOLENCE ERUPTED OVER A MONTH AGO. THIS VIOLENCE HAS LEFT AT LEAST 100,000 DEAD AND DISPLACED AS MANY AS ONE MILLION PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOTH THE FIGHTING AND THE KILLING OF CIVILIANS CONTINUE. THE TUTSI-DOMINATED REBEL RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) NOW CONTROLS MUCH OF THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN PORTIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND A FIERCE BATTLE HAS BEEN RAGING OVER CONTROL OF KIGALI.

-- A CONTINGENT OF UN TROOPS IS DEPLOYED AT THE AIRPORT, WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES DUG IN AROUND THEM. CROSSFIRES HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT TO BRING IN RELIEF FLIGHTS.

-- IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT EVEN IF THE RPF MANAGES TO DEFEAT GOR FORCES, IT CANNOT RULE THE COUNTRY ALONE AND WOULD HAVE TO PURSUE SOME FORM OF POWER-SHARING.

-- ON MAY 3, THE GOR AND THE RPF SENT DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND TALKS IN ARUSHA, BUT THE TALKS BROKE DOWN TWO DAYS LATER WHEN THE RPF REFUSED TO SIGN A CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

-- SINCE THE CRISIS BEGAN, THE U.S. HAS PURSUED AN ACTIVE STRATEGY WITH FIVE MAIN GOALS: TO STOP THE KILLING; ACHIEVE A DURABLE CEASE-FIRE; RETURN THE PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE; CONTAIN THE CONFLICT; AND ADDRESS HUMANITARIAN RELIEF NEEDS.

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-- ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT, WE HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON THE PARTIES TO END THE KILLING AND RESUME PEACE TALKS.

-- WE HAVE ALSO WORKED TO MOBILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGED THE OAU, OTHER REGIONAL STATES, AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES TO JOIN US IN URGING THE RWANDANS
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TO AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE.

-- WE ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO PROTECT RWANDAN REFUGEES ON THE RWANDAN BORDER WITH BURUNDI AND, IF REQUIRED, POSSIBLY THE RWANDAN BORDER WITH TANZANIA. THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE SOME SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN EFFORT TO ENSURE A PERIMETER OF SAFETY AND TO SUPPLY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.

-- WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN RWANDA AND ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU HAVE ON HOW WE

CAN WORK TOGETHER TO HELP BRING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. TALBOTT

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